

This quotation will serve to answer the question often asked in this country as to the truth of the statement that these large parasitic species of *Cordyceps* are found on living caterpillars. It may safely be asserted that they are not; after the germination of the spores, which, I believe, usually occurs in the stomach and intestines, the host-insect quickly dies, and life is certainly extinct long before the stem and other external parts of the fungus are developed.

[This is followed by a synopsis of the species, with descriptions of several new ones, accompanied with four Plates, to which we must refer the reader.—W. F.]

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE.

Catalogue of the Marine Mollusks of Japan. By HENRY A. PILSBRY. Svo. Frederick Stearns, Detroit; Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner, & Co., London, 1895.

PROBABLY more attention has been bestowed upon the marine Molluscan fauna of Japan than upon that of any country, with the exception of Europe, N. America, and some of the British colonies. Within the last thirty-four years two more or less complete catalogues of the known forms were issued by the late Dr. W. Dunker, three very valuable and beautifully illustrated quarto volumes were published by the late Dr. C. E. Lischke, and an enormous number of genera and species were described by Mr. A. Adams from material which he himself collected. In addition, very numerous and important papers have appeared in various journals, and very many species have been described in monographic works and in the reports of the 'Samarang,' 'Challenger,' and other voyages.

The volume before us is the latest contribution to our knowledge of this fauna. It resulted "from the research incidental to the identification of the Mollusea procured by Mr. Frederick Stearns (the publisher) during two visits to Japan."

It consists of a few prefatory remarks by the author, a short introduction by Mr. Stearns, a list of the principal works quoted, and 196 pages of text, containing the list of species, with references and descriptions of about thirty new ones, illustrated by eleven excellent plates.

The whole of the text is not, however, devoted to the marine mollusks, as might be inferred from the title of the work. Only 154 pages have reference to that part of the Japanese fauna, the remainder containing two appendices, respectively on the "Land

and Freshwater Mollusks collected in Japan by Frederick Stearns," and on the "Mollusca in the Collection of Frederick Stearns from the Middle Loo-Choo Islands;" also a generic index and an explanation of the plates.

A Catalogue of this description is of enormous value to the student if it possesses the one all-important feature—completeness. Lacking this, its utility is in a great measure diminished. It is satisfactory to find that in the present Catalogue this condition has been in a great measure realized. To ensure no omissions, however, would be all but impossible, and entail enormous labour and research. One catalogue we have examined contains more than twenty species, quoted from Japan, which are unrecorded by Mr. Pilsbry; but as this was issued as recently as January 1894, it may have escaped the author's attention. It is possible that a few other oversights could be pointed out; but, considering the extent of the task, the author is to be congratulated on the success achieved. "The current generic nomenclature has been revised in certain cases;" but Professor Pilsbry appears to object to emended names, as *Rissoia* is still left *Rissoa*, *Scutum* remains *Scutus*, and *Solemya* is preferred to *Solenomya*. On p. 28 *Neptunea* has crept in in place of *Chrysodomus*, two species of *Macoma* have gone astray on p. 124, and certain untenable generic names, such as *Volvula*, *Aspergillum*, *Macrodon*, and *Leda*, are still retained.

The Catalogue is the most complete as yet published; it is issued in a convenient octavo form, very clearly printed, and the eleven plates, two of which are reproductions from the Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, 1891, are excellent. The artist is fortunate in possessing a "conchological eye," and seems to have caught the individuality of the numerous forms depicted.

To the student of Japanese Mollusca this useful work will be found indispensable.

MISCELLANEOUS.

On rapid Change of Colour in Gasterosteus. By JAMES DALLAS,
F.L.S., Curator of the Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter.

SOME time ago I made the following memorandum of observations upon a stickleback, which has until now been mislaid.

On the 28th January I obtained a solitary specimen of a stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*), which was placed in an aquarium at some distance from the window, and where consequently the light was at no time brilliant, and was generally dull. When first captured the fish was of a bright dark-greenish colour on the dorsal